



Pedro E. Segarra
Mayor

BUSWAY IMPORTANT TO HARTFORD WOULD CREATE JOBS & STIMULATE ECONOMIC GROWTH

---NEWS AND COMMUNITY STATEMENT---

(February 18, 2011)--- As the State Legislature takes up the issue of the New Britain-Hartford Busway, Mayor Pedro E. Segarra sent a letter of support to Governor Dannel P. Malloy, urging collaboration and to demonstrate what the positive economic impact the busway would have on the Capital City, the region and the State.

The Mayor outlined how the construction phase would create more than 4,700 jobs, would benefit disadvantaged business enterprises (DBE's), and create training programs for local labor. Once completed, the busway would have a positive ripple effect on the economy and the environment.

"Once built, the busway will be the region's first rapid transit line. It will provide fast and reliable bus service between Downtown Hartford and the City's southwest neighborhoods, West Hartford, Newington and New Britain. Those who currently rely on transit in this corridor will experience a much improved trip, encouraging others to switch to bus transit, saving them time, money, and fuel thereby reducing the region's greenhouse gas emissions. Business along the corridor will benefit from the increased transit options for employees and customers," the Mayor stated in the letter.

The Mayor understands that challenges do still exist in making this dream project a reality but is fully committed to resolving any issues that remain during the construction phase.

"As with any massive public project, there will always be issues that need to be managed and resolved. Moving forward, I am confident that with our strong working relationship with the region and state, together we can iron-out differences in a collaborative way. The state has already come forward and is committed to working with the City on its concerns and has met us more than halfway and we appreciate this long-term support and investment regarding customer access to businesses during construction and overall traffic concerns," said Mayor Segarra.

The busway is an integral part of the transit vision of Hartford's "One City, One Plan" for conservation and development. The Mayor strongly believes that by improving the transportation system serving the Capital City--- which also includes the New Haven-Hartford-Springfield high speed rail line and the pedestrian iQuilt vision--- Hartford can be transformed into a transportation center for the region and destination of choice that will ultimately benefit the entire state.

"Making it easier to get from point 'A' to point 'B' will make Hartford, the region and the state more attractive to businesses and tourists and this in turn will create jobs--- which is job one," said Mayor Segarra.